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Position Statement for IFAAMAS Officer Elections 2010

I am honoured to have the opportunity to stand for election as an officer of the International Foundation for Autonomous Agents & Multi-Agent Systems.

I started doing research on multi-agent systems in 1989, at a time when the area was seen as a rather obscure (and perhaps eccentric) subfield of AI research. Since then, of course, there has been a huge explosion of interest in the field, and I am delighted not just to have been a witness to, but an active participant in, this growth.

In terms of my contributions to the AAMAS conference, I was general chair of the conference in 2003, and PC chair in 2005. I have served as an elected president of IFAAMAS, (currently serving as past president). I have published in AAMAS regularly, with more than 40 full papers published in the conference since 2002. I was co-recipient of the AAMAS best paper prize in both 2008 and 2009. Prior to the formation of AAMAS, I was an active member of the three events that merged to form AAMAS: I was co-founder of the ATAL workshop series, was a program chair of the Autonomous Agents conference in 1998, and was a director of IFMAS, the foundation behind the ICMAS conference. I published regularly in all of these events. I served a 7-year term (2003-2009) as co-editor-in-chief of the AAMAS Journal, standing down in January 2010 after establishing a regular rotation period for editors of the journal.

I have been heavily involved in teaching multi-agent systems, and in 2002 published an introductory textbook in the area (“An Introduction to MultiAgent Systems”, Wiley, 2002). This book was translated into Chinese and Greek, and a second edition was published in 2009. I aim to continue to update and develop the book with further future editions, and am currently developing new teaching materials for the book (eg an extensive series of video lectures available via YouTube).

In terms of my personal research, my main interests are at the intersection of multi-agent systems, logic, and complexity. A strong theme of my recent research has been the paradigm of “Logic for Mechanism Design”: the idea of using logic to express desirable properties of economic mechanisms, and to use logic-based techniques (such as model checking) to automatically establish properties of such systems. I was recipient of the ACM Autonomous Agents Research Award in 2006, was elected a AAAI fellow in 2008, and ECCAI fellow in 2007.

In summary, I am an active and enthusiastic member of the AAMAS community, and I hope I still have much to offer with respect to serving the community. I believe my extensive experience with the AAMAS conference and community over the past two decades will be valuable to IFAAMAS in the years to come. I would cherish the opportunity to contribute further to the AAMAS community as part of the IFAAMAS board.